GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3749
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
NUCLEAR DOCTRINE
VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the statement of the Chief Executive of Pakistan, General Musharraf that Pakistan would not hesitate to use nuclear bomb for self defence.

(b) if so, whether India has formulated its Nuclear Doctrine keeping in view the above mentioned statement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a draft of the said doctrine was released by the National Security Council a few months back with the aim of initiating a public debate; and

(e) if so, the attitude of the Government with regard to the said doctrine keeping in view the debate on this draft.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) In an interview in October 2000, the `Chief Executive: of the current military regime General Pervez Musharraf said that Pakistan could use its nuclear weapons against India if its security is jeopardized.

(b) (c) (d) & (e) The main elements of the Government`s nuclear policy have been laid out in previous statements, including by the Prime Minister in December 1998 before Parliament.These remain valid despite recent developments in the region. On 17 August, 1999, the National Security Advisory Board released a draft paper on a possible `Indian Nuclear Doctrine`.This document is one of the inputs for consideration by the National Security Council for finalizing a doctrine, and was released to encourage discussion and debate at the wider public and political levels.